

PHILADELPHIA, PA—On April 15, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) delivered the keynote address at the Global Security Symposium hosted by the University of Pennsylvania International Relations Program. The Symposium was a day-long expert exchange and networking event for the assessment of challenges in identifying and responding to emerging threats to national security and the need for joint public-private action. Panel participants and non-panelists included students, business leaders, security experts, logistics specialists, academics, journalists, law enforcement and government representatives.

“I served this Nation in the Navy for 31 year—much of that time during the Cold War,” said Congressman Sestak. “The Cold War is over, and the threat of Communist aggression, the dominant threat for half a century, has given way to new threats. Rogue states pose a danger to regional stability in many corners of the globe. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction looms as a constant danger. Environmental degradation and economic turmoil sows political instability in many countries and regions. And the threat to our free society from the forces of terrorism is greater as the technological revolution, which holds such promise, also empowers these destructive forces with new means to challenge our security. We all have a role in looking after our Nation’s security. A knowledge-based approach to security, drawing on all of America’s vast resources and ingenuity, public and private, will be the key to our lasting safety, prosperity, and leadership in the world.”

The Congressman, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform, applauded the plan put forth by Secretary Gates for pushing the Nation’s defense priorities in the right direction. “Not only does the Secretary of Defense’s plan curtail systems that are not needed, it begins to move away from ‘counting’ our military prowess in terms of ‘how many’ and into measuring capability in terms of ‘knowledge-based’ capability – especially intel, surveillance, and recon,” the Congressman said. “That said, there still needs to be greater emphasis on cyberspace capabilities. In the 21st century, we need to be prepared for the gamut of 21st century challenges, from low-tech piracy to hi-tech electronic warfare.”

Participants in the Symposium—which included public and closed-door forums—discussed homeland security in the context of U.S. international security objectives, including: cyber terrorism and supply chain risk; global risk/threat identification, modeling, and management trends; the roles of the military and non-state actors; federal programs, international initiatives, multilateral agreements, protocols, treaties & pacts; and, building a business case for security investment. A Cybersecurity Panel, entitled “The Approaching Tsunami,” discussed deterring “nationalist hacktivism”; the need for convergence of physical security and logical security; and existing/emerging programs, standards, technologies, and solutions for effective

risk management of national security.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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